IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claim 3, line 1, delete "1 or".

Claim 4, line 1, replace "any one of claims 1, 2 or 3" with --claim 1--.

Claim 5, lines 7-8, replace "any one of claims 1-4" with --claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 6, replace "any one of claims 1-4" with --claim 1--.

8. (Amended) A method [according to claim 7, comprising a preceding screening step according to claim 5 or 6] of designing a zinc finger polypeptide for binding to a particular target DNA sequence, comprising the steps of:

screening against at least a portion of the target DNA sequence a plurality of zinc finger polypeptides having a partially randomized zinc finger positioned between two or more zinc fingers having defined amino acid sequence, the portion of the target DNA sequence being sufficient to allow binding of some of the zinc finger polypeptides, the plurality of zinc finger polypeptides being encoded by a library in accordance with claim 1;

comparing the binding to one or more DNA triplets of each of a plurality zinc finger polypeptides having a partially randomized zinc finger positioned between two or more zinc fingers having defined amino acid sequence; and

selecting those nucleic acid sequences encoding randomized zinc fingers exhibiting preferred binding characteristics.

9. (Amended) A method of designing a zinc finger polypeptide for binding to a particular target DNA sequence, the method comprising the steps of:[-]

screening against at least a portion of the target DNA sequence a plurality of zinc finger polypeptides having a partially randomized zinc finger positioned between two or more zinc fingers having defined amino acid sequence, the portion of the target DNA sequence being sufficient to allow binding of some of the zinc finger polypeptides, the plurality of zinc finger polypeptides being encoded by a library in accordance with claim 1;

[screening nucleic acid sequences encoding randomized zinc fingers having desired bidning affinity by a method according to claim 5 or 6];

comparing the binding to one or more DNA triplets of each of a plurality zinc finger polypeptides having a partially randomized zinc finger positioned between two or more zinc fingers having defined amino acid sequence;

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selecting certain of the screened randomized zinc fingers for analysis of preferred binding characteristics [by the method of claim 7];

and combining those sequences encoding desired zinc fingers to form a sequence encoding a single zinc finger polypeptide having the desired binding specificity.

Claim 10, line 3, delete "and claim 7".

Claim 11, line 5, delete "7 or".

Claim 14, line 1, replace "any one of claims 11, 12 or 13" with --claim 11--.

Claim 17, line 1, delete "or 16".

Claim 18, lines 2-4, delete "in a form suitable for screening according to the method of claim 5 or 6, and/or selecting according to the method of claim 7 or 8".

26 ~~19~~. (Amended) A kit [according to claim 18, wherein the library of DNA sequences is in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 4] for making a zinc finger polypeptide for

By

binding to a nucleic acid sequence of interest, comprising: a library of DNA sequences in accordance with claim 1; and instructions for use.

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~~20~~. (Amended) A kit according to claim ~~18~~ 19 [or 19], further comprising a DNA library [according to any one of claims 11 to 14] consisting of 64 sequences, each sequence comprising a different one of the 64 possible permutations of a DNA triplet, the library being arranged in twelve sub-libraries, wherein for any one sub-library one base in the triplet is defined and the other two bases are randomized.

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Claim ~~21~~, line ~~1~~, replace "any one of claims 18, 19 or 20" with --claim 20,--.

Claim ~~22~~, line ~~1~~, replace "any one of claims 18 to 21" with --claim 21--.

24. (Amended) A method [according to claim 23, wherein the zinc finger polypeptide is designed] of altering the expression of a gene of interest in a target cell, comprising: determining (if necessary) at least part of the DNA sequence of the structural region and/or a regulatory region of the gene of interest, designing a zinc finger polypeptide to bind to the DNA of determined sequence in accordance with claim 5

[the method of any one of claims 5-10], and causing said zinc finger polypeptide to be present in the target cell.

Claim 25, line 1, delete "23 or".

Claim 26, line 1, replace "any one of claims 23, 24 or 25" with --claim 24--.

Claim 27, line 1, replace "any one of claims 23 to 26" with --claim 24--.

Claim 28, line 1, replace "any one of claims 23 to 27" with --claim 24--.

Claim 29, line 1, replace "any one of claims 23 to 28" with --claim 24--.

32. (Amended) A method [according to claim 31] of modifying a nucleic acid sequence of interest present in a sample mixture by binding thereto a zinc finger polypeptide, wherein the zinc finger polypeptide is designed in accordance with claim 5 [the method of any one of claims 5 to 10], comprising contacting the sample mixture with a zinc finger polypeptide having affinity for at least a portion of the sequence of interest, so as to allow the zinc finger polypeptide to bind specifically to the sequence of interest.

Claim 33, line 1, delete "31 or".